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later discussion is drawn from the records of various explorers English, American and French and presents the modern conditions of travel.

Mr. Holdich's work shows the result of his twenty years' intimacy with his subject. He has enriched his narrative with other material in addition to his notes. The book is an excellent summary of the results of the best historical research as well as a testimony to the explorers of the nineteenth century.

CHESTER LLOYD JONES.

*University of Wisconsin.*

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**Hopkins, C. G.** *Soil Fertility and Permanent Agriculture.* Pp. xxiii, 653.  
Price, \$2.75. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1910.

At this time when so much attention is being given to the question of conservation of resources, it is especially gratifying to have an exhaustive discussion of soil fertility, the most important of all resources, from a recognized authority on the subject. The book discusses the problems of agriculture from the scientific standpoint, but for the most part in terms intelligible to the general reader. In some of the early chapters, however, where it is necessary to expound various fundamental principles, the discussions of chemical elements, compounds and reactions are likely to be difficult for the lay mind to follow. Occasionally in other connections, also, items are introduced, as the disputed relations of phosphorus compounds in slag, which are important only to a student of chemistry.

The book is divided into four parts. Part I is devoted to chemical principles, soil formation, composition, analyses, and the relation of various soil elements to plants. Part II, "Systems of Permanent Agriculture," is a discussion of the importance of limestone, phosphorus and nitrogen, crop rotation and live stock farming, to the maintenance of soil fertility so that agriculture may be permanent. Part III is a survey of the soil investigations, crop yields, etc., at various experiment stations. Part IV is a consideration of the "various fertility factors," as fertilizers, natural and manufactured, losses of plant food in different ways, soil testing and the essentials of successful farming. Under this latter head it is interesting to note that business ability is, in the author's estimation, one of the three essentials for success. An appendix gives statistics of agricultural production, locations of agricultural colleges and experiment stations in the United States and Canada, and much other useful information to supplement the text.

The book is a veritable mine of information on the subject of scientific agriculture, and though there may be disagreement over some points, it should be highly commended.

WALTER S. TOWER.

*University of Pennsylvania.*

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**Jones, H.** *The Working Faith of the Social Reformer.* Pp. xii, 305. Price, \$2.40. New York: Macmillan Company, 1910.

This is a collection of essays and lectures on social problems, previously published in magazine form. The author is Professor of Moral Philosophy

in the University of Glasgow. Most of the essays were originally written in response to the incitement of some temporary circumstance. Their scholarly type and philosophic treatment give them a value far from temporary. It is the author's conviction throughout that "there is no need so imperative, none from whose fulfilment our social welfare would flow so full and free, as the convincing enunciation of a few principles which have the intrinsic right to be dominant." The purpose running throughout the book is to question the principles involved in our social philosophies, for, as the author maintains, "principles are very powerful, either for mischief or for good. They may appear to be remote from practice; but they are, in truth, the most practical forces of all. They warp our judgment of *all* facts if they are false; they inform our judgment if they are true."

The thirteen essays or lectures group themselves under the following six general titles, *The Working Faith of the Social Reformer*, *The Moral Aspect of the Fiscal Question*, *The Child and Heredity*, *Idealism and Politics*, *Social and Individual Evolution*, and *Social Responsibilities*. The discussions under these divisions vary from philosophic treatises to popular discussions. Of the latter class are four lectures under the caption "*Social Responsibilities*," addresses primarily to the business men of Glasgow. Their tone is eminently sane and conservative.

Of a more philosophic and abstract nature are the essays grouped under the title, "*Idealism and Politics*." Here the author seeks to advance one of those principles, which has the "intrinsic right to be dominant" and of which he feels the need is "so imperative." The author discusses idealism and concludes by showing that "idealism is not in the least unique in that it has taken a spiritual view of human life; it is not from that either its merits or its demerits flow. Its uniqueness lies in the fact that it has endeavored to employ the conception of spirit in the way in which the natural sciences employ *their* dominating hypothesis. It is for it a principle of research in knowledge, and of reform in private and public conduct. Idealism would follow the self-articulation of spirit in the history of beliefs and institutions, even as biology seeks to follow the evolution of natural life from form to form in an ascending series. Its task is only begun. It is no complete theory rounded and finished."

This idealistic philosophy is the characteristic viewpoint of the book. Whether one accept or reject this hypothesis there is much of great value and general interest in the author's presentation of his subject. The style of the lectures is scholarly, the subject matter excellent, and their philosophy well worthy of the careful consideration of all thinkers interested in social reform.

FRANK D. WATSON.

*University of Pennsylvania.*

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**Kennan, G.** *Tent Life in Siberia.* Pp. xv. 482. Price, \$2.50. New York:  
G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1910.

**Bates, L.** *The Russian Road to China.* Pp. ix, 391. Price, \$3.00.  
Boston: Houghton, Mifflin Company, 1910.

These books stand at opposite poles of our knowledge of Siberia and its